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## South Texas Garden at old Fort Brown

William Doherty

E. C. Green

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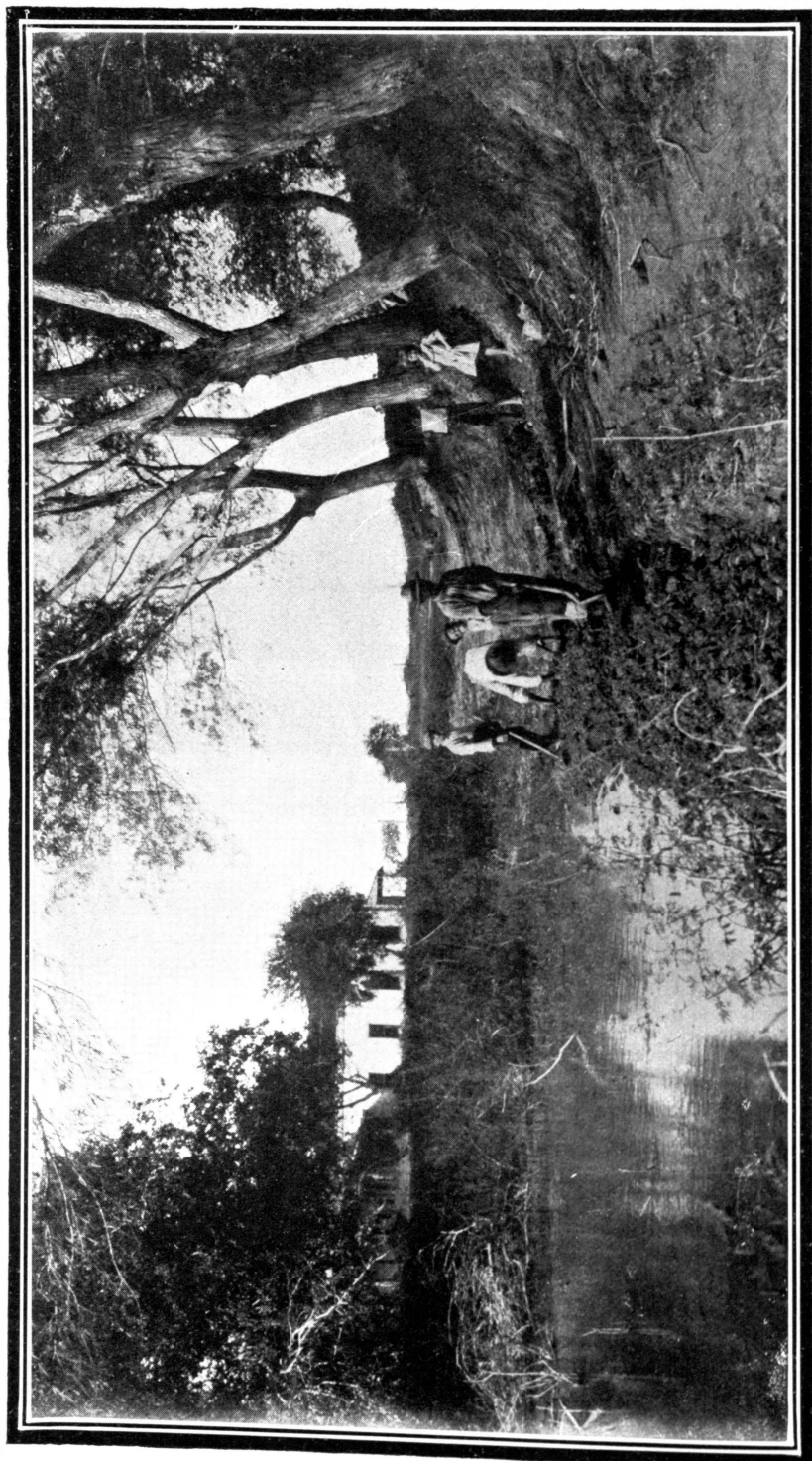
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By Courtesy U. S. Dept. Agriculture.

South Texas Garden and Building Driveway at East End of Lagoon.

# THE SOUTH TEXAS GARDEN.

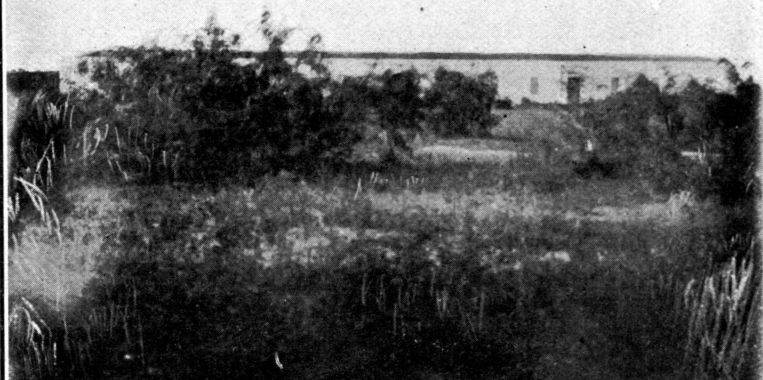
**W**HEN the Federal Government established the South Texas Garden at old Fort Brown and placed Professor E. C. Green in charge thereof, it did a great service for the farmers of Southwest Texas, and especially the farmers residing in those sections designated as the Lower Rio Grande. For the South Texas Garden is an experimental farm under the charge of an experienced pomologist, and from both the farmers are learning lessons and receiving information that will be of great value to them in the pursuit of their avocations as tillers of the soil.

Fifty acres of ground in old Fort Brown have been allotted to the South Texas Garden for the present, and Professor Green is assisted in his work by an office clerk, an entomologist, three gardeners and five laborers. The first work done at the Garden was on June 1, 1907, and this consisted in clearing off the brush, constructing irrigating ditches and getting the land ready for planting in the fall, the first planting taking place on November 19 last.

An idea of the extent of the experiments to be made at the Garden will be found in the fact that up to the 15th of last July, the time the notes for this article were taken, Professor Green had received for planting 1,486 different varieties of seeds, plants and trees, and all of which had been put in the ground since the 19th day of November, 1907. These seeds, plants, etc., came from all portions of the world, including Europe, Asia, Africa and Australia.

At the time of the visit of the writer to the Garden, Professor Green was engaged in the work of introducing plants to be grown under irrigation. He was of the opinion, however, that the more important mission of the South Texas Garden was the development of agricultural products suited to the semi-arid region between the Rio Grande River and San Antonio, and especially of the imported forage plants brought from the arid parts of India. If these forage plants succeed as they promise to do, it means the ultimate cultivation of large areas of land that cannot be supplied with water.

Professor Green has the most complete collection of cactus plants in the world and many of the varieties now growing at the Garden are spineless, or thornless, as they are more familiarly known. Much attention is being paid to the breeding of corn especially adapted to South Texas, and thorough tests are being made of Texas, Sea Island and Egyptian cotton grown under irrigation. There is a large collection of Smyrna figs, citrus fruits and California grapes growing at the Garden and all are doing well.



By Courtesy U. S. Department Agriculture

South Texas Garden: Top, Land in its Natural State July, 1907; Center, First Plowing; bottom, Grading Lands and Destroying Bermuda Grass.

The Weather Bureau has established a permanent observation point at the Garden under the charge of Professor Green, and he is also to have the assistance in his great work of a permanent plant pathologist, commonly known as a plant disease specialist. Arrangements have been made for the establishment of co-operative gardens on the Gulf Coast and in the Rio Grande Valley, where soil and climatic conditions vary more or less from those at Fort Brown, and development next year will be largely in the nature of expansion.

The South Texas Garden is the home of the South Texas Gardeners' Association, which includes in its membership all farmers and all truck and fruit growers in South Texas. The members take great interest in the work of the Garden and the visitors' register shows that there are many callers at all seasons of the year.

The illustrations which accompany this brief sketch of the Garden and which are made from recent photographs, will give one a fair idea of the great work that is being done at the South Texas Garden under the direction of Professor E. C. Green.



### FIRST TELEGRAPH WIRE OPERATED IN AMERICA.

In one of the locked alcoves of the library of Princeton University is a manuscript volume of some seventy-six pages written by Professor Joseph Henry, the famous electrical scientist, giving an account of his researches while a professor at Princeton. It was across the Princeton campus that Henry strung what is said to have been the first telegraph wire ever operated in America. Before he left Albany he had been working at his invention of the electro-magnet for transmitting signals at a distance whereby dots might be made on paper and bells struck, indicating letters of the alphabet. He refused to patent this invention on the ground that it was incompatible with the dignity of science to confine the probable benefits to the use of any one individual. In his statement he says: "I think the first actual line of telegraph using the earth as a conductor was made in the beginning of 1836. A wire was extended across the front campus from the upper story of the college library building to the philosophical hall on the other. Through this wire signals were sent from time to time from my house to my laboratory." The operator at the other end of the line was usually Henry's wife, and the exchange of communications between the two seemed to undergraduates of those days little short of miraculous. *Telegraph Age.*



South Texas Garden: Top, Building Lateral with "Push;" Center, Ready for Planting in December; Bottom, First Planting, December 19, 1907.